

TESTIMONY OF RUSS RITTER IN SUPPORT OF HB 746
Mr. Chairman and members of the House Appropriations Committee, my name is Russ Ritter. I appear before you this morning on behalf of myself to speak as a proponent of House Bill 746.

As has been stated by the bill's sponsor, Rep. Erickson and other proponents, this bill would allow tax credits for donors to capital construction campaigns with 501-(c) 3 status. This includes a number of campaigns I am personally aware of such as St. Peters Hospital, St. Helena Cathedral, the University of Montana, St. Catherine's Church in Big Fork and the Fort Harrison Military Museum.

I spent some 21 years in fundraising at Carroll College and I assure you that the various tax incentives were very valuable in our success. However, during my tenure at Carroll, tax credits for construction projects were unavailable, but I can assure you that if this tax credit had been available, those campaigns involving construction would have finished much sooner.

The fiscal note accompanying the original bill indicated An outlay of some \$22+M from the General Fund. However, Prior to executive action in House Tax the bill was amended So as to reflect a \$5.4M General Fund cost. The bill then passed 19-0 out of committee.

Prior to being sent to your committee, Mr. Chairman And committee members, it passed second reading 85-15.

I ask the Committee Members for a do pass on HB 746 and I will stand for any questions members of the committee may have.